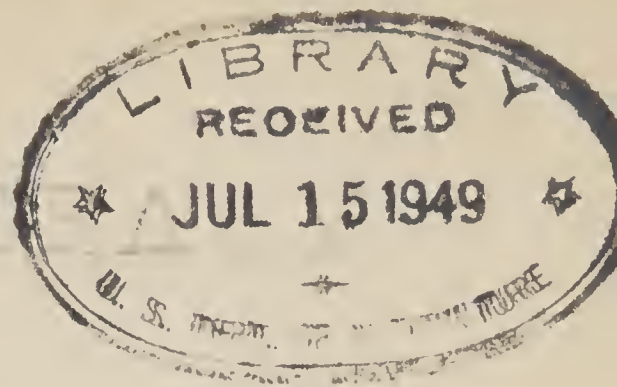


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1
B 52C
Cgo. 6

REYNOLDS LIBRARY



Issued March 2, 1912.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY—Circular No. 85

HENRY W. HENSHAW, Chief of Bureau

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA
ON THE
ALASKA GAME LAW
1911

BY
WALTER E. CLARK
Governor of Alaska

CONTENTS.

	Page.
Introduction.....	3
The game supply.....	3
Violations of the law.....	4
Nonresident hunters.....	4
Wardens	4
Licensed guides	5
Amendments of the law.....	5
Hunting licenses.....	6
Table.....	6
Shipping licenses.....	6
General.....	7
Special moose.....	7
Receipts.....	8
Game or trophies shipped from Alaska.....	8
Appendix A:	
List of game wardens in Alaska.....	10
List of licensed guides, Kenai Peninsula.....	10
Appendix B:	
Information for the general public in regard to the Alaska game law.....	11
[Cir. 85]	(2)

THIS PUBLICATION may be pro-
cured from the Superintendent of
Documents, Government Printing Office
Washington, D. C., at 5 cents per copy



Issued March 2, 1912.

United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY—Circular No. 85.

HENRY W. HENSHAW, Chief of Bureau.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA ON THE ALASKA GAME LAW.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,
Juneau, Alaska, November 1, 1911.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my annual report on the administration of the Alaska game law (act approved May 11, 1908) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1911.

Respectfully yours,

WALTER E. CLARK, *Governor.*

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D. C.

INTRODUCTION.

By careful attention to the various provisions of the law and the regulations thereunder, and by the appointment of additional wardens, the administration of the Alaska game law has been somewhat improved during the last year. Another year's experience under the new law, however, has emphasized the inadaptability of certain provisions and the lack of certain needed provisions of the most obvious nature. Extensive modifications of the law are needed, and the failure to provide a better law renders the enforcement of the act more difficult, because of the fact that public opinion does not wholly support it.

THE GAME SUPPLY.

Game is still plentiful in almost all parts of Alaska. This statement applies to both animals and birds. The consensus of opinion among the wardens, licensed guides, and residents generally seems to be that moose are increasing in numbers on the Kenai Peninsula, a fact of extraordinary significance when it is considered that this peninsula is the region selected by nearly all the nonresident hunters as their

hunting ground. Caribou are increasing, it is believed, in the Alaska Peninsula and in one or two of the larger islands immediately west of the peninsula.

On the other hand, there has unquestionably been an enormous decrease in the number of deer in southeastern Alaska, a fact which is due principally to the abnormally heavy snowfall of the last two winters. The prohibition of market selling of venison in 1911 has proven to be a wise measure, and is supported by local public opinion. The prohibition should be extended by regulation to cover 1912.

There has been no large general decrease in the supply of game birds. There has been an increase in many localities, and a decrease in several places in the near vicinity of populous settlements, and where forest and brush fires have swept over the country, killing young ptarmigan and grouse.

VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW.

Several gross violations of the law by residents have been reported and wherever possible prosecuted, but in general there has been a fair observance of the provisions of the game-protection act throughout the Territory. The people believe in the necessity of a game law, but certain provisions of the act, such as the protection of the troublesome and dangerous brown bear, are universally condemned.

Eight or ten convictions were secured during the year of persons guilty of violating the game law, and unquestionably a very large number of infractions were prevented by the known presence of game wardens in the several regions.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS.

Big-game hunters from the States and from foreign countries visited the Alaska game regions in considerable numbers last year, but during the fall hunting season of 1911 the number has been somewhat smaller. Some of the visiting sportsmen complain of the expensiveness of hunting in Alaska, but the license fee of \$50, which covers the shipment of many trophies, is considered by this office to be moderate, and the provision of the law which requires hunters to employ licensed guides on the Kenai Peninsula can not be regarded as unjust.

WARDENS.

The number of paid game wardens now employed is seven. In addition to these are four wardens who serve as such without compensation, their services being incidental to the performance of their regular duties as officers or employees of the Bureau of Forestry. The increase in the game-protection appropriation from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the current year has already proven beneficial, since it has per-

mitted the employment of more wardens, and has increased the efficiency of all the wardens by permitting them to travel more freely in regions where the expenses of transportation and subsistence are necessarily very high. It is earnestly urged that the appropriation of \$15,000 be renewed for the fiscal year 1913.

LICENSED GUIDES.

There are now 24 resident licensed guides on the Kenai Peninsula. No encouragement has been extended to other residents to apply for appointment, for the reason that an effort is being made by this office to create an esprit de corps among the guides, by encouraging them to make the taking out of hunting parties a regular business. The number already licensed exceeds the demand for guides each year by visiting hunters. A few applications for guide licenses have been refused on the ground that the applicants were not qualified by character or efficiency. Henceforth the policy will be pursued of appointing every person who may apply, provided he is of good character, has not been guilty of violating the game law himself, and is otherwise not notoriously disqualified.

Severe complaints have recently been made by several visiting hunters that the licensed guides are, as a class, lacking in local knowledge of the country and that they are generally inefficient. These and other charges will probably not be sustained wholly by the investigation now being carried on by this office.

AMENDMENTS OF THE LAW.

The provision of the game law which makes a close season for brown bear should be repealed. The least that can be said of the legal protection of brown bear in Alaska is that it is an absurdity. If this protection is continued, the menace to human life will be still more serious, and agriculture and stock raising in some of the most favored regions in the Territory will be discouraged. The superintendent of the Government's experimental stock farm on Kodiak Island makes a strong appeal for the protection of settlers and live stock against the ravages of brown bear, declaring that it has become a question whether we shall have a game preserve or a great agricultural and stock-raising region on Kodiak Island. The existence of the brown-bear protective feature of the law, which has nothing whatever to commend it, is so strongly opposed by the residents of the Kenai and Alaska Peninsulas that the enforcement of the just provisions of the law is rendered more difficult.

One of the inequalities of the present law is that provision of section 5 which permits the issuance of only one game-shipping license to any one person in any one year. Among several illustrations which

might be given of the unjust consequences of this provision, it may be sufficient to cite the fact that while a nonresident of Alaska may procure a hunting license which permits him to ship 18 trophies from the Territory for \$50, a resident of Alaska desiring to ship a single trophy of moose killed north of latitude 62° must pay \$40. The whole scale of shipping licenses should be revised, especially with a view of placing the resident of Alaska at least on an equality with the nonresident.

HUNTING LICENSES.

In the fiscal year 1911 the number of nonresident hunters obtaining hunting licenses was 25, of whom 20 were citizens of the United States and 5 were residents of foreign countries. In the fiscal year 1910 the number of nonresident hunters taking out hunting licenses was 23, of whom 12 were citizens of the United States and 11 were residents of foreign countries. Residents of Alaska are not required to obtain hunting licenses, even in the Kenai Peninsula. The issuance of hunting licenses in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1911, is shown in detail in the following table:

Hunting licenses.

Num- ber of license.	Date.	Residence of holder.	Fee.
91	July 8, 1910	Resident of foreign country.....	\$100
92	July 22, 1910	Citizen of United States.....	50
97	Aug. 6, 1910	.....do.....	50
98	Aug. 8, 1910	.....do.....	50
99	Aug. 10, 1910	Resident of foreign country.....	100
100	.....do.....	Citizen of United States.....	50
101	.....do.....	Resident of foreign country.....	100
102	.....do.....	Citizen of United States.....	50
113	Aug. 14, 1910	.....do.....	50
114	.....do.....	.....do.....	50
115	Aug. 15, 1910	.....do.....	50
121	Aug. 22, 1910	.....do.....	50
124	Aug. 24, 1910	.....do.....	50
130	Sept. 8, 1910	.....do.....	50
131	.....do.....	.....do.....	50
154	Mar. 31, 1911	.....do.....	50
155	.....do.....	.....do.....	50
156	Apr. 5, 1911	.....do.....	50
159	Apr. 18, 1911	Resident of foreign country.....	100
160	.....do.....	.....do.....	100
162	May 1, 1911	Citizen of United States.....	50
163	May 9, 1911	.....do.....	50
164	May 13, 1911	.....do.....	50
165	.....do.....	.....do.....	50
166	May 20, 1911	.....do.....	50
Total.....			1,500

SHIPPING LICENSES.

The number of general game-shipping licenses issued by this office in the last fiscal year was 31, and the number of special moose-shipping licenses (for moose killed south of latitude 62° only) issued during the same period was 19, to 12 different persons, of whom 7 were

citizens of the United States and 5 were residents of foreign countries. In the fiscal year 1910 there were 23 general game-shipping licenses and 18 special moose-shipping licenses issued by this office. The issuance of shipping licenses in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1911, is shown in detail in the two tables following:

General game-shipping licenses.

No. of license.	Date.	Game or trophy.	Fee.
93	July 25, 1910	1 brown bear skin.....	\$5
94	Aug. 4, 1910	.....do.....	5
95	.....do.....	.....do.....	5
96	.....do.....	.....do.....	5
117	Aug. 18, 1910	.....do.....	5
118	.....do.....	.....do.....	5
119	.....do.....	.....do.....	5
120	.....do.....	.....do.....	5
122	Aug. 23, 1910	.....do.....	5
123	.....do.....	.....do.....	5
128	Sept. 8, 1910	.....do.....	5
129	.....do.....	.....do.....	5
132	Sept. 19, 1910	.....do.....	5
133	Sept. 22, 1910	.....do.....	5
134	Sept. 23, 1910	1 mountain-sheep head.....	10
135	.....do.....	.....do.....	10
136	Oct. 1, 1910	1 moose head, 1 caribou head, 1 bear head, 1 mountain-sheep head.....	40
137	.....do.....	1 brown bear skin.....	5
138	Oct. 11, 1910	.....do.....	5
139	Oct. 13, 1910	1 caribou head.....	10
140	Oct. 24, 1910	1 mountain-sheep head.....	10
147	Dec. 14, 1910	.....do.....	10
148	.....do.....	.....do.....	10
149	.....do.....	.....do.....	10
150	Dec. 26, 1910	1 brown bear skin.....	5
151	Jan. 4, 1911	1 pair caribou antlers.....	10
153	Mar. 13, 1911	1 brown bear skin.....	5
157	Apr. 10, 1911	1 pair caribou horns.....	10
158	.....do.....	1 pair mountain-sheep horns.....	10
161	Apr. 28, 1911	1 brown bear skin.....	5
167	June 2, 1911	.....do.....	5
Total.....			240

Special moose-shipping licenses.

[Each license covers the shipment of 1 moose or trophy thereof.]

No. of license.	Date.	Residence of holder.	Fee.
103	Aug. 10, 1910	Citizen of United States.....	\$150
104	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
105	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
106	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
107	.....do.....	Resident of foreign country.....	150
108	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
109	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
110	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
111	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
112	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
116	Aug. 15, 1910	Citizen of United States.....	150
125	Aug. 24, 1910	.....do.....	150
126	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
127	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
142	Oct. 25, 1910	Resident of foreign country.....	150
143	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
144	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
145	.....do.....	.....do.....	150
146	Dec. 7, 1910	Citizen of United States.....	150
Total.....			2,850

RECEIPTS.

The total receipts of this office from the administration of the game law, consisting of fees for hunting licenses and shipping licenses, in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1911, was \$4,590. Of this amount, \$3,090 was paid in during the first quarter of the fiscal year, which is the principal hunting season for big game. In the first quarter of the current fiscal year the receipts for hunting and shipping licenses have amounted to \$1,305.

The foregoing statements in regard to the issuance of shipping licenses do not indicate, of course, the number of game animals which were actually killed. Persons holding hunting licenses did not ship, it is presumed, trophies of all animals killed by them. Nor do these statements take into account the large number of game animals killed for food, very few trophies of which are shipped out of Alaska. No record is given of the number of shore birds and water fowl killed by sportsmen and hunters.

GAME OR TROPHIES SHIPPED FROM ALASKA.

The following table is intended to show the number and kind of trophies actually shipped from the Territory in the fiscal year 1911, as indicated by clearances through the customs ports:

Game or trophies shipped from Alaska for private use during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1911.

Number of hunting or shipping license.	Date of shipment.	Kind and number of game or trophies.	Residence of shipper.
84	July 11, 1910	4 boxes horns and scalps, 1 crate horns and skulls, 2 bales hides and scalps.	Alaska.
72	July 12, 1910	1 brown bear skin.....	do.
76	July 14, 1910	3 mountain-sheep heads.....	do.
77			
78			
87	July 17, 1910	1 pair moose horns and hide.....	do.
94	Aug. 4, 1910	1 brown bear skin.....	do.
95	do.....	do.....	do.
96	do.....	do.....	do.
92	Aug. 30, 1910	1 box horns.....	do.
117	Sept. 8, 1910	1 brown bear skin.....	do.
118	do.....	do.....	do.
119	do.....	do.....	do.
120	do.....	do.....	do.
123	do.....	do.....	do.
136	Sept. 13, 1910	1 moose head, 1 caribou head, 1 mountain sheep, 1 brown bear.	do.
127	Sept. 22, 1910	1 pair moose antlers.....	United States.
128	Oct. 6, 1910	1 brown bear skin.....	Alaska.
129	do.....	do.....	do.
139	Oct. 13, 1910	1 caribou head.....	do.
138	Oct. 15, 1910	1 brown bear skin.....	do.
104	Oct. 18, 1910	{ 6 moose horns with scalps and jaw-bones, 2 moose hides, 9 mountain-sheep heads with scalps and jaw-bones, 2 sheep heads, 2 brown bear skins.	{ United States.
105			
107			
108			

Game or trophies shipped from Alaska for private use during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1911—Continued.

Number of hunting or shipping license.	Date of shipment.	Kind and number of game or trophies.	Residence of shipper.
109 110 111 112 130	{do.....	{ 4 moose horns with scalps and jawbones, 4 mountain-sheep heads with scalps and jawbones, 4 mountain-sheep hides. 1 mountain-sheep head and scalp, 2 brown bear skins.	{ Foreign country. United States.
131	.....do.....	1 mountain-sheep head and scalp, 1 brown bear skin.	do.
142 143 144 145 74	{do..... Nov. 8, 1910	{ 4 moose horns, scalps, and jawbones; 8 mountain-sheep heads, scalps, and jawbones; 1½ mountain-sheep skins; 1 brown bear skin. 3 brown bear skins, 3 mountain-sheep heads.	{ Foreign country. United States.
140	Nov. 15, 1910	1 mountain-sheep head and scalp.....	Alaska.
146	Dec. 1, 1910	1 moose head.....	do.
124 125 126	{ Dec. 2, 1910	{ 2 moose heads with scalps, 3 brown bear skins, 3 mountain-sheep horns.	{ United States.
116	Dec. 30, 1910	1 moose head and scalp.....	do.
147	.....do.....	3 mountain-sheep heads.....	Alaska.
151	Jan. 23, 1911	1 pair caribou horns.....	do.
161	May 23, 1911	1 brown bear skin.....	do.
162	May 27, 1911	2 brown bear skins.....	United States.
167	June 3, 1911	1 brown bear skin.....	Alaska.

In Appendix A of this report appear the names and addresses of the several game wardens and of the licensed guides for Kenai Peninsula.

[Cir. 85]

APPENDIX A.

List of game wardens in Alaska.

Name.	Residence.	Appointed.
Christopher C. Shea.....	Seward, Alaska.....	July 3, 1909
P. F. Vian.....	Kenai, Alaska.....	July 10, 1909
J. C. Tolman.....	Kodiak, Alaska.....	Sept. 15, 1910
Adam Schneider.....	Juneau, Alaska.....	Oct. 1, 1910
F. C. Irons.....	Fairbanks, Alaska.....	July 1, 1911
Christian L. Larson.....	Chicken, Alaska.....	July 11, 1911
William Lloyd.....	Fairbanks, Alaska.....	July 21, 1911
James Allen ¹	Petersburg, Alaska.....	Mar. 1, 1910
George H. Peterson ¹	Sitka, Alaska.....	do.
T. M. Hunt ¹	Cordova, Alaska.....	do.
W. G. Weigle ¹	Ketchikan, Alaska.....	Aug. 8, 1911

¹ Officer of Forest Service acting as game warden, without compensation, under appointment by this office.

List of licensed guides, Kenai Peninsula.

Name.	Residence.	Appointed.
Andrew Berg.....	Kenai, Alaska.....	July 9, 1910
H. E. Ellsworth.....	Seward, Alaska.....	do.
Charles Ensweiler.....	do.....	do.
Axel Lindblad.....	do.....	do.
W. J. McKeon.....	Seldovia, Alaska.....	do.
O. H. Reese.....	Seward, Alaska.....	do.
H. E. Revell.....	do.....	do.
H. G. Singer.....	Kenai, Alaska.....	do.
George Sexton.....	Seward, Alaska.....	do.
George Dreibelbis.....	do.....	Aug. 6, 1910
George W. Kuppler.....	Kenai, Alaska.....	Aug. 23, 1910
Dimidoff Mamala ¹	do.....	do.
B. F. Sweasey.....	Seward, Alaska.....	Sept. 3, 1910
W. G. Weaver.....	do.....	do.
Pitka Bakoff ¹	Kenai, Alaska.....	Oct. 8, 1910
F. W. Johanson.....	do.....	do.
Inokenty Shangay ¹	do.....	do.
Math Yuth.....	do.....	do.
John Wik.....	do.....	July 14, 1911
Andrew Simons.....	do.....	do.
Philip Wilson.....	do.....	Aug. 14, 1911
Emil Berg.....	do.....	do.
Gust Ness.....	do.....	do.
Feodor Chickalush ¹	do.....	Sept. 19, 1911

¹ Second-class guides. All others are first-class guides.

APPENDIX B.

Copy of circular issued from the Governor's office, containing a summary of the provisions of the game law and regulations, for general distribution.

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC IN REGARD TO THE ALASKA GAME LAW.

GAME DEFINED.

The Act approved May 11, 1908 (Alaska Game Law), protects at certain seasons the following game and game birds: Deer, moose, caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goats, brown bear, sea lions, walrus, ducks, geese, brant, swan, snipe, curlew, grouse and ptarmigan.

EXEMPTIONS.

Any game animal or game bird may be killed by Natives at any time for food or clothing or by miners or explorers at any time when in need of food, but the animals or birds so killed during the close season shall not be sold or shipped from the territory.

SEASONS.

North of latitude 62 degrees the seasons when game animals and birds may be killed lawfully are as follows: Brown bear, at any time; moose, caribou, sheep, and sea lions, August 1 to December 10; walrus, May 10 to July 1; grouse, ptarmigan, shore birds, and waterfowl, September 1 to March 1.

South of latitude 62 degrees, moose, caribou, mountain sheep, August 20 to December 31; brown bear, October 1 to July 1; deer, August 15 to November 1; mountain goats, April 1 to February 1; grouse, ptarmigan, shore birds, and waterfowl, September 1 to March 1. No caribou to be killed in Kenai Peninsula before August 20, 1912.

NUMBER.

It is unlawful for any one person in any one year to kill more than 2 moose, 1 walrus or sea lion, 3 caribou, 3 mountain sheep, 3 brown bear, 8 deer, or to kill or have in his possession in any one day more than 25 grouse or ptarmigan or 25 shorebirds or waterfowl.

SALE.

No person is permitted to sell or purchase during the close season any game animal or game bird.

HUNTING LICENSES.

Residents of Alaska are not required to obtain hunting licenses. Nonresidents desiring to hunt any of the game animals, except deer and goats, must first obtain a license from the governor of Alaska, and on Kenai Peninsula must employ a registered guide.

SHIPPING LICENSES.

Each hunting license held by a nonresident entitles the holder without further charge to ship a certain limited number of animals or trophies from Alaska, but no moose unless killed north of 62 degrees. For moose killed south of 62 degrees a special shipping permit and license fee are required.

Neither residents nor nonresidents are permitted to ship game animals or trophies which have been bought or are intended for sale.

Residents of Alaska are forbidden to ship heads or trophies without first obtaining a shipping license from the Governor of Alaska, for which fees are charged entitling the holder to ship as follows: Forty dollars, 1 moose, if killed north of 62 degrees; 4 deer, 2 caribou, 2 sheep, 2 goats, 2 brown bear. Ten dollars, 1 caribou or 1 sheep. Five dollars, 1 goat or 1 deer, or 1 brown bear.

Applications for shipping licenses should be made to the Governor, at Juneau, accompanied by the requisite fee, in the form of a post-office money order payable to the Governor of Alaska, stating the name and address of consignee and port in the States through which shipment is expected to pass.

Any person shipping any game or game trophy is required to make affidavit before the customs officer at port of shipment stating that he has not violated any provision of the game law, that the game or trophy has not been bought or sold, and that he is the owner of the same, and that it is not intended for sale.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is unlawful for any person at any time to kill any female moose or any yearling moose.

The law forbids all persons to hunt game animals with dogs; to use a shotgun larger than number 10 gauge, or any gun other than that which can be fired from the shoulder, or to use steam launches or any boats other than those propelled by oars or paddles in the pursuit of game animals or birds.

After the close of the season of 1910 the sale of deer carcasses in Southeastern Alaska shall be suspended until 1912, and this period may be extended later.

PENALTIES.

Any person violating any provision of the game law is punishable for each offense by a fine of not more than \$200 or imprisonment for not more than three months, or both. Any person making any false or untrue statement in an affidavit is punishable by the same fine or imprisonment, or both.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, JUNEAU, *June 30, 1911.*

[Cir. 85]

